

The Texas Governor's committee on People with Disabilities promotes rights and opportunities of the approximate four million Texans with disabilities. In this regard the Committee makes recommendations to the Governor and Texas Legislature. In the area of communications, the Committee's recommendations are to:

- Promote routine incorporation of people with disabilities in community emergency planning including homeland security.
- Increase captioning, audio description, video relay, and accessible cell phone and digital communication devices for people with disabilities.

The Committee urges the FCC to:

- Strengthen enforcement of accessibility requirements of broadcasters to provide information to everyone including persons with disabilities.
- Enforce captioning requirements and begin work to require video description services.
- Promote greater understanding of procedures to provide captioning and video description so transmission to local viewers occurs.
- Incorporate access and determine accessibility of new television services for persons with disabilities.

The Committee's reasoning comes from input about accessibility of emergency preparedness in Texas cities. Only 60 percent reported providing media alerts both verbally and visually. Frequently individuals with communication disabilities expressed that emergency information is spoken by the individuals interviewed and not captioned and weather alerts are given visually without verbal announcement.

Video description is often provided, but local stations are not performing in a manner resulting in transmission to local viewers. Additionally, the Committee recognizes that as the television industry changes daily, incorporating access into new services benefits viewers and listeners. .

Thank you for considering the Committee's suggestions for improving the quality of life for Americans with disabilities.

Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, Tx 78711
512.463.5739
512.463.5746 (TDD)
<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/disabilities>